

Los Angeles County
Department of Coroner
2004
Annual Report





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On December 7, 1990, an ordinance approved by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors created a Department of Coroner administered by a nonphysician director for all nonphysician operations, while retaining the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner to set standards for the entire department and carry out statutorily mandated Coroner functions.

The ordinance placed the responsibility for all physician staff under the control the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner, subject to the general direction of the Board of Supervisors, and the nonphysician director was given authority to manage/direct all nonphysician operations and staff within the department, subject to the general direction of the Board of Supervisors.



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DEPARTMENT HEADS' MESSAGE

This report contains statistical information from the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner for the year 2004, as well as selected statistics from the previous ten years.

Significant Accomplishments

- Worked with the Chief Administrative Office to acquire the newly renovated Old Hospital Administration Building for non-biohazardous Department functions.
- Obtained re-accreditation of the laboratory by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors.
- Obtained re-accreditation of the Department as a provider of continuing medical education.
- Received an award from the National Association of Counties for the special operations response team and infectious disease surveillance program.
- Worked with the California State Coroner's Association and Orange County Coroner to create an advanced training curriculum for Coroner's investigators.
- Developed an on-call investigator response program to provide efficient response to calls, reduce overtime, and offset staff shortages.
- Completed an internal review of the Department's residency program to meet accreditation requirements.

Legislation

During the year 2004, new laws affected the functions of the Department of Coroner.

SB 1313 - Changes certain provisions of child abuse reporting laws. Employers of mandated reporters are strongly encouraged to provide training in child abuse reporting (various Penal Code sections).

SB1081 - A medical examiner or other physician may test a decedent for human immunodeficiency virus without consent if an autopsy is performed or body parts are donated (Health and Safety Code 120990(b)).

United States Code Title 18, Ch 228A, Section 3600A - Requires the government to preserve biological evidence secured during investigation or prosecution of a Federal offense if the defendant is under sentence of imprisonment. Provides criminal penalties for failure to do so.

Academic Activities

Publications:

CD Berkowitz, Cosleeping: benefits, risks and cautions. Advances in Pediatrics 2004;51:329-49.

GS Golden, Forensic odontology and elder abuse-a case study. Journal of the California Dental Association 2004 Apr;32(4):336-40.

GS Golden, Lessons learned from the WTC disaster: a first-person account. Journal of the California Dental Association 2004 Aug;32(8):675-80.

GL Vale, Identification by dental evidence: basics and beyond. Journal of the California Dental Association 2004 Aug;32(8):665-9, 671-2.

DT Anderson, "New Drugs: "Strattera-Analytical Information" Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Tox-Talk, March 2004.

DT Anderson, "New Drugs: "Duloxetine (Cymbalta®)" Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Tox-Talk, September 2004.



Oral Presentations:

DJ Garber, I Golden, L Sathyavagiswaran, "Use of the Impact Baton or So-Called 'Rubber Bullet' as Less Lethal Force in Air vs. Water", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Dallas, February 2004.

K Fritz, Case Report: The Use of Amitriptyline in Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault" at the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) Washington DC, September 2004

S Kegler, "What's the Scoop on "Scoop"?: Case Studies Involving GHB" California Association of Toxicologists - Summer 2004 Meeting Pasadena, CA, June 2004

E Fu, Introduction to Criminalistics at Santa Ana Community College

E Fu, Introduction to Criminalistics at Harvey Mudd College

E Fu, Phencyclidine: "Dust, Dippers & Death", California Association of Toxicologists; Los Angeles, CA

M Sandberg, Recipient of the SOFT Young Scientist Meeting Award - August 2004

M Sandberg, "Where the Wild Things Are - Oleander and Other Weeds" - West Coast Seminar; North Hollywood CA, November 2004

M Sandberg, "Interpreting Post-Mortem Levels of Antihistamines", Society of Forensics Toxicologists; Washington DC, August 2004

M Sandberg, "Where the Wild Things Are - Oleander and Other Weeds", California Association of Toxicologists; Oakland, CA March 2004

M Sandberg, Instructor of a 40hr. Skeletal Recovery Workshop - San Diego, April 2004

D Anderson, "Living in Cloud of Volatiles", West Coast Seminar-LA County Coroner, North Hollywood, CA November, 2004

D Anderson, "It's Only Just Begun! A Postmortem Tissue Distribution of Strattera® or Atomoxetine in Two Fatalities", Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Washington DC, August/Sept., 2004

D Anderson, "Up, Up, ... and Away! Living in Cloud of Volatiles", California Association of Toxicologists, Pasadena, CA June, 2004

D Anderson, "Where the Wild Things Are: Oleander and Other Weeds", California Association of Toxicologists, Oakland, CA March, 2004



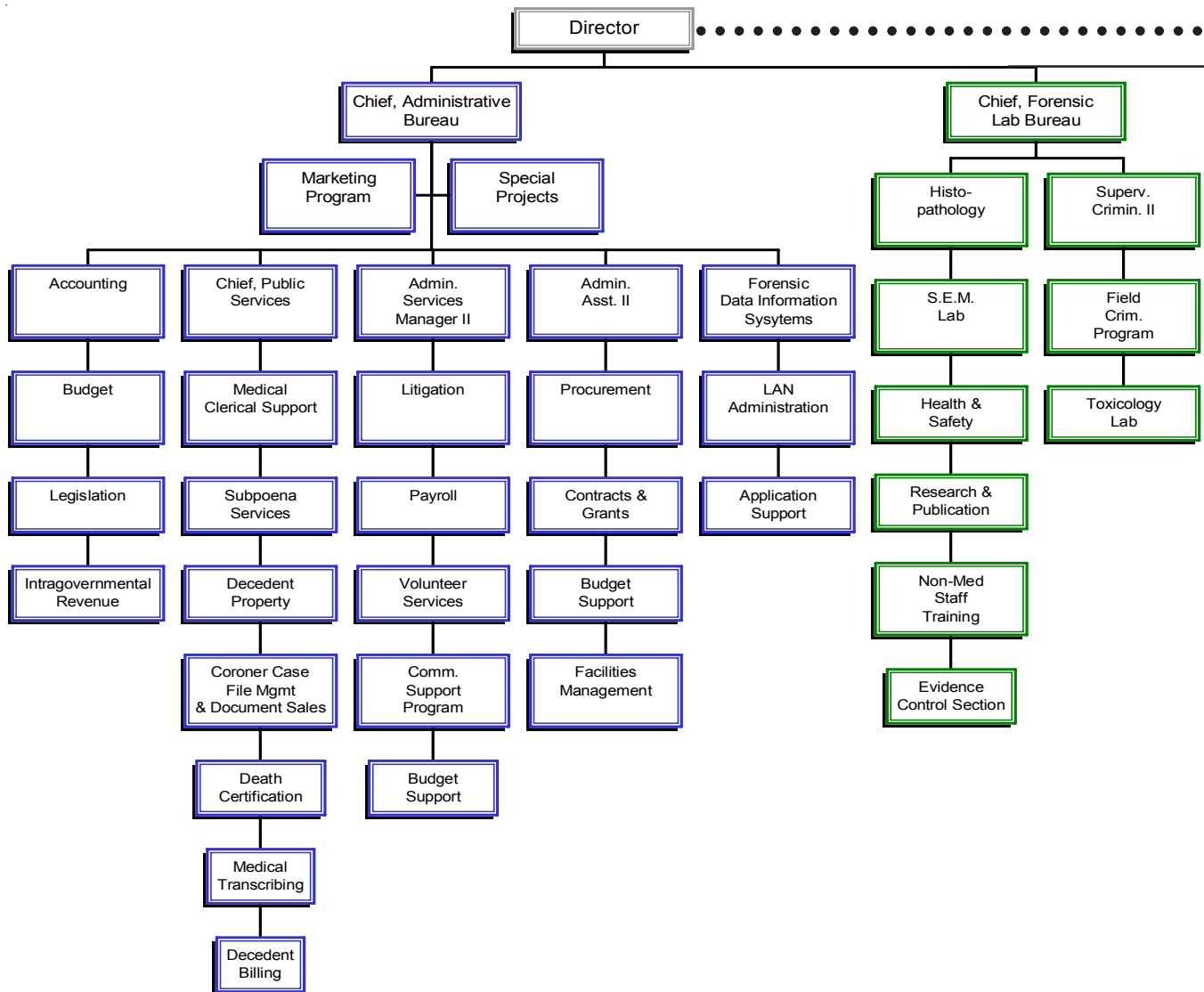
Anthony Hernandez
Director

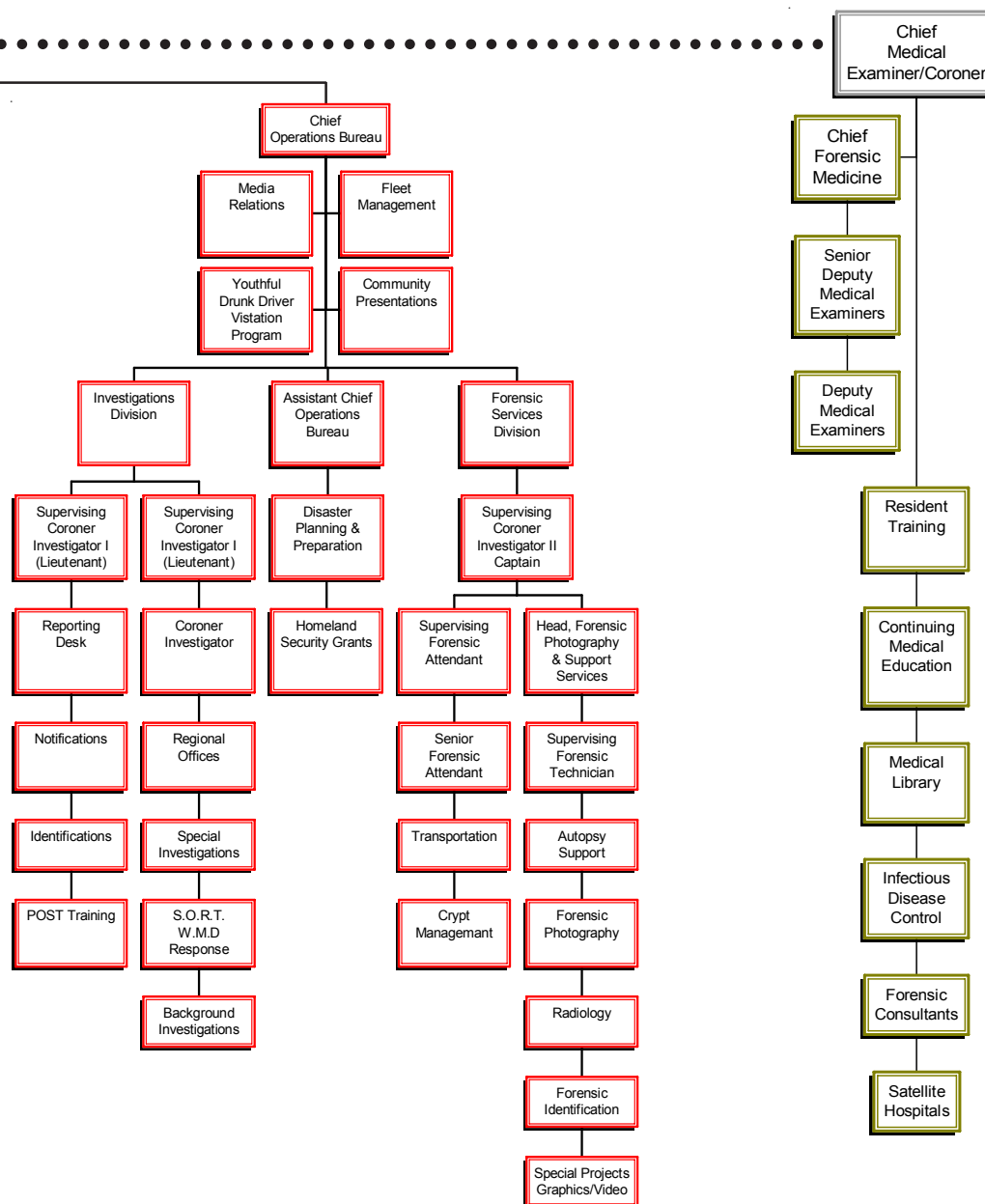


Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner



Department







The Administrative Services Bureau is responsible for all departmental financial operations, departmental budget preparation, fiscal reports, personnel, payroll, litigation, procurement, accounting, revenue collection, marketing, volunteer services, affirmative action, contracts and grants, internal control certification, workfare program, facilities management, and other related functions.



The Bureau is responsible for Fiscal Services, Procurement, Human Resources, Marketing, Contracts, Mortuary Billing, SIDS and Forensic Data Information Systems

FISCAL SERVICES

The accounting section is responsible for all financial transactions performed by the Department of Coroner. All Auditor-Controller guidelines are followed as well as any departmental guidelines governing monetary issues. The section also monitors all departmental accounts, such as salary and benefits, overtime expenditures, services and supplies, and budget.

PROCUREMENT

Procurement is responsible for purchasing equipment, maintenance of buildings, contracts, budgetary support, monitoring of fixed assets, and inventory control.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources is responsible for personnel issues which are inherent to County government, such as benefits, processing examinations, filling vacant positions, litigation, workers compensation, volunteer services, payroll, community support programs such as job fairs, and budgetary support.



MARKETING PROGRAM

“Skeletons in the Closet” has been operating since September 1993. Given the scarcity of resources at that time, revenue generation had to be considered to help offset monetary losses. The intent was to use monies raised to offset some of the costs associated with the Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program (YDDVP), as well as other Coroner needs. “Skeletons in the Closet” features a complete line of quality souvenir items, such as beach towels, shirts, toe tags, and much more. The items are available to the public via Web site at LACORONER.COM or by calling (323) 343-0760.

CONTRACT PROGRAMS

The Department administers contracts and agreements for various functions, such as tissue harvesting, regional offices, satellite hospitals, histopathology, transcribing and contract physicians. The staff monitors and studies Department operations in the continuing evaluation of the appropriateness of contracting for other functions.

MORTUARY BILLING PROGRAM

The Department now utilizes the services of the various mortuaries to bill for transportation and storage costs at the time services are being billed to the families. This has improved the collection rate, dramatically raising revenues.

SIDS PROGRAM (SB90)

The Department participates in the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Interagency Council, and actively recovers cost from the State for fulfilling SIDS protocol requirements.

FORENSIC DATA INFORMATION SYSTEMS

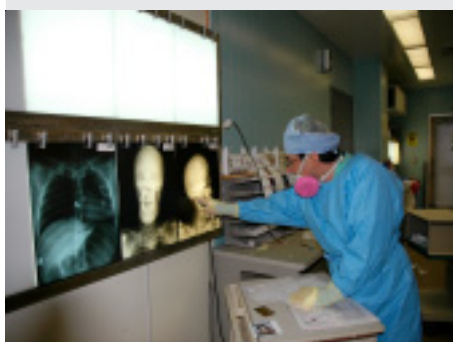
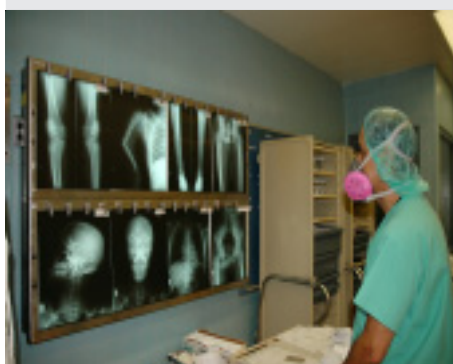
The mission of Forensic Data Information Systems is to enhance and support the Department’s long-range goals, mission critical business goals and objectives through the administration, project management, and expansion of information technology-related applications and services, including, where appropriate, the delivery of services to agencies referred through appropriate 24/7 e-government technologies.

The FDIS is also responsible for network, database and application administration, preparation of statistics and general client support. The FDIS is responsible to ensure that the Department is in alignment with the County-wide strategic planning effort to conduct county business electronically and maintain compliance with the technological directives as stipulated by the County’s Chief Information Officer. The FDIS manages the information technology efforts of subcontractors in the implementation and support of new technologies such as e-commerce content management and voice over internet protocol (VoIP). ■

*Administrative Services
1104 N. Mission Road
Los Angeles, CA 90033
Tel: 323 343 0784
Fax: 323 343 2213*



The Forensic Medicine Bureau's full-time permanent staff consists of board certified forensic pathologists who are responsible for the professional medical investigation and determination of the cause



and mode of each death handled by the department. Our physicians are experts in the evaluation of sudden unexpected natural deaths and unnatural deaths such as deaths from firearms, sharp and blunt force trauma, etc. Physicians are frequently called to court to testify on cause of death and their medical findings and interpretations, particularly in homicide cases. In addition, the division has consultants in forensic neuropathology, archeology, odontology, anthropology, anesthesiology, pediatrics, surgery, ophthalmologic pathology, pulmonary pathology, pediatric forensic pathology, cardiac pathology, emergency room medicine, psychiatry, psychology and radiology to assist the deputy medical examiners in evaluating their cases.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Department is approved by the California Medical Association for Continuing Medical Education activities.

HEALTH & SAFETY/RISK MANAGEMENT

The Department has implemented an aggressive health & safety committee and risk management program, which has significantly reduced work-related injuries.





ICAN

The Department participates in the Interagency Council for Child Abuse and Neglect. This Department is the host of the monthly Child Death Review Committee of ICAN.

IDENTIFICATION OF UNIDENTIFIED BODIES (SB90)

The Department participates in a state-mandated program to examine dental records and collect appropriate specimens for the identification of John and Jane Does.

MEDICAL EXAMINER CORONER ALERT PROJECT

The Department of Coroner reports to the Consumer Product Safety Commission all deaths resulting directly from unsafe consumer products.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Medical Division of the Department of Coroner has an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education approved forensic pathology residency program designed to train deputy medical examiners and prepare them for board certification while performing medical investigations under appropriate supervision.

SCUBA PROGRAM

The Department staff participates in the Los Angeles County Interagency Scuba Committee to investigate and develop programs to prevent future scuba diving fatalities.

SIDS PROGRAM (SB90)

The Department participates in the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Interagency Council, and actively recovers cost from the state for fulfilling SIDS protocol requirements.

TISSUE HARVESTING/ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

This program provides corneas and other tissues to all in need in our community through coordinated efforts with various tissue banks and hospitals. After family consent is obtained, our medical staff provides review of organ and tissue procurement in Coroner's cases. In addition, the program makes tissue available to low-income and indigent patients at county hospitals at no cost to the patients or hospitals.

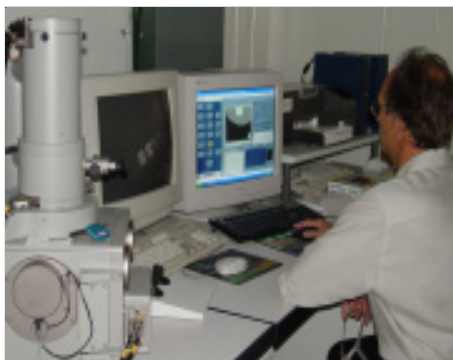
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL PATHOLOGY RESIDENT TRAINING PROGRAM

We offer the opportunity for pathology residents from local university affiliated hospitals (USC, UCLA, and others) to train in our office with costs paid by the hospitals. This program fosters positive relationships with the university hospitals' pathology departments, and improves the standard of practice of forensic medicine in general, as these pathology residents will be practicing in the community when they finish training. ■

*Forensic Medicine
1104 N. Mission Road
Los Angeles, CA 90033
Tel: 323 343 0520
Fax: 323 225 2752*



The Forensic Science Laboratories Bureau is responsible for the identification, collection, preservation, and analysis of physical and medical evidence associated with Coroner's cases. Our mission is to



conduct a comprehensive scientific investigation into the cause and manner of any death within the Coroner's jurisdiction. This is accomplished through the chemical and instrumental analysis of physical and medical evidence.



Our goal is to provide our medical examiners, families of decedents, outside investigating agencies, and the judicial system with timely, accurate, and state-of-the-art forensic analyses, and to provide expert interpretation of those analyses.

The Forensic Laboratory is fully accredited by the prestigious American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, and our Forensic Blood Alcohol testing program is licensed by the State of California.

CRIMINALISTICS



Our team of specially trained forensic scientists is on call twenty-four hours a day to respond to crime scenes for the proper documentation, collection, and preservation of physical evidence.



The Forensic Laboratory is fully accredited by the prestigious American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors



HISTOLOGY

This laboratory facilitates the preparation of gross tissue specimens for microscopic examination by the medical staff. This includes hematoxylin and eosin stains, special stains, and immunohistochemical stains. Through the microscopic examination of tissue, our forensic pathologists can determine the age and degree of injury, diagnose disease including cancers, evaluate cellular variation in tissue, and identify the presence of bacteria, medical disorders, and toxins such as asbestos.

TOXICOLOGY

Using state of the art equipment and methods, the toxicology laboratory conducts chemical and instrumental analyses on post-mortem specimens to determine the extent that drugs may have contributed to the cause and manner of death. The laboratory's experienced forensic toxicologists offer expert drug interpretation, which assists the medical examiners in answering questions like what drug was taken? How much and when was the drug taken? Did the drug contribute to the cause and/or manner of death? Was the drug use consistent with therapeutic administration, or was it an abuse? If the death is due to a drug overdose, was it intentional or accidental?

SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY LAB

Our SEM laboratory conducts gunshot residue (GSR) analyses and tool mark evaluations. Using a scanning electron microscope equipped with an energy dispersive x-ray detector, GSR analysis is used to determine whether an individual may have fired a weapon. Our laboratory also performs GSR analyses for many law enforcement agencies throughout California.

Tool mark analysis involves the evaluation of trauma to biological material, especially bone and cartilage, as to the type of instrument that might have produced the trauma. This not only helps our pathologists understand the circumstances of a death, but also aids the law enforcement agency in their criminal investigation.

EVIDENCE CONTROL

Our evidence personnel are responsible for maintaining the integrity and chain of custody for all of the evidence collected from Coroner's cases. All of the physical evidence collected by Department investigators, criminalists, pathologists, forensic technicians and forensic attendants is documented and maintained by the evidence control unit. ■



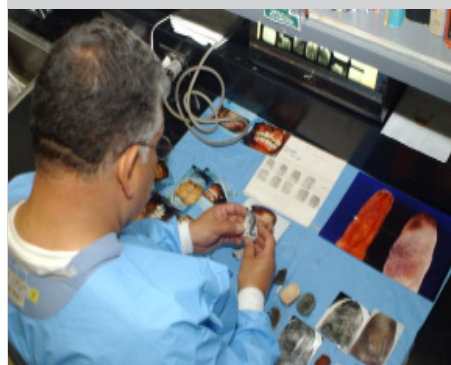


This bureau is responsible for the 24-hour day, 7-day week operations of many direct services provided by the department. The Bureau oversees Investigations, Forensic Photography and Support, and the



Forensic Services Division. In addition, the bureau is responsible for disaster and community services, fleet management, public information and other ancillary programs such as regional offices and the Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program (YDDVP).

Coroner Investigators are also responsible for testimony in court and deposition on Coroner cases along with preparation of investigative reports for use in the determination of cause and mode of death.



Under state law, all Coroner Investigators are sworn peace officers. The Coroner Investigator must meet the same stringent hiring standards as any other California law enforcement agency. The Department of Coroner is a California Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified agency.



IDENTIFICATION OF UNIDENTIFIED BODIES (SB90)

The department participates in a state-mandated program to examine dental records of known missing persons to aid in the identification of John and Jane Does. In addition, more recent changes in the law have required that DNA specimens be collected from unidentified remains and sent to the State of California DNA lab in Richmond, California.



The Bureau oversees Investigations, Forensic Photography and Support, and the Forensic Services Division



NURSING HOME DEATHS (SB90)

The department participates in a state-mandated program to investigate certain nursing home deaths to determine whether a death may be certified as natural by a private physician or handled as a Coroner's case.

PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING (P.O.S.T.)

The California State Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) establishes minimum standards for training requirements for peace officers. We comply with those standards in all advanced training that is offered through the Department of Coroner through the annual West Coast Seminar or other specialized training such as Skeletal and Buried Body Recovery.

REGIONALIZATION-SATELLITE OFFICES

Investigative capabilities have been extended to offices in the Antelope Valley, Santa Clarita Valley and South Bay areas of Los Angeles County. Efforts are underway to expand regional services to the eastern portion of Los Angeles County. Regional offices provide a more rapid Coroner's response to the scene of death, which results in rapid mitigation of traffic other public conveyance obstructions.

YOUTHFUL DRUNK DRIVER VISITATION PROGRAM (YDDVP)

The Department of Coroner has presented the YDDVP program since 1989 as an alternative sentence option that can be considered by a judicial officer. The program is designed to present to the participants the consequences of certain behavior in a manner that has an impact and is also educational. The program is currently offered up to 12 times per month and includes classes presented completely in Spanish.

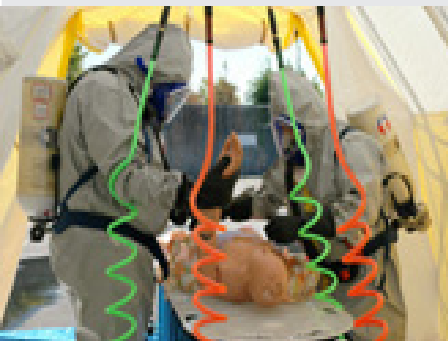
DISASTER PREPARATION AND RESPONSE

The program ensures appropriate departmental response as one of the eight lead county agencies to major disasters and significant smaller incidents that involve multiple fatalities requiring successful operation of an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and field command posts. These efforts may include coordinated activity with major airports, homeland defense agencies, law enforcement, the State Office of Emergency Services, and mutual aid from Coroners throughout the state. The program provides planning support through participation in emergency planning and exercises and also through up-to-date manuals. A plan has been developed to form public/private emergency response partnership with local funeral and cemetery directors for a mass fatality management response system. The Department maintains emergency communications equipment, which includes a command post trailer, County Wide Integrated Radio System (CWIRS) radio communications, a mobile command post, and appropriate ancillary communications equipment. The department also has eleven disaster cache trailers situated throughout the County. The Department has emergency short-wave radio communications ability as well.



INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Division responds to the scenes of death throughout Los Angeles County twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week. It is the responsibility of the Coroner Investigator to function as the eyes



and ears of the Deputy Medical Examiner, ensure that State law is followed with respect to Coroner cases, and be the advocate for the deceased person. Due to the diverse caseload in Los Angeles County, the Coroner Investigator is in the important position of seeing every death that occurs under other than natural conditions and is often the first to identify serial deaths and consumer product safety issues.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND RESPONSE TEAM (SORT)

The Department of Coroner has fielded a specialized response unit comprised of Coroner Investigators, Coroner Criminalists, and Coroner Consultants in Anthropology and Archeology and as needed, Forensic Attendants and Forensic Technician Photographers.

The S.O.R.T. team has special purpose vehicles fully equipped to handle certain types of cases thoroughly and as rapidly as possible.

The S.O.R.T. team responds to cases requiring specialized recovery and scene processing techniques such as those required in aircraft crashes, buried bodies, scattered human remains and fires and





also assists law enforcement agencies in general searches for scattered human remains or possible burial sites.

FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY & SUPPORT DIVISION

This division is responsible for providing direct support in the autopsy room to the deputy medical examiners. Staff duties include, but are not limited to, preparation of the bodies for medical examination and autopsy, assisting the deputy medical examiners in the performance of the autopsy, preparation and gathering of toxicology specimens, x-ray and photography and preparation of bodies for release to a mortuary.

The division is also home to the Forensic Fingerprint Identification Unit that is responsible for post-mortem dental x-rays and specialized fingerprint processing to aid in the identification of Jane, John and Undetermined Does.

Personnel who have been specially trained also fulfill specialized audio-visual and graphic production requirements for the entire department as well as the courts.

FORENSIC SERVICES DIVISION

Personnel assigned to this unit are responsible for the transportation, processing, storage, and release of bodies that are under the jurisdiction of the Coroner. Bodies may be recovered from any death scene, in almost any environment imaginable, including those in public view, private homes, and hospitals. Decedent processing includes obtaining the height and weight of bodies, the collection, documentation and safekeeping of personal effects, and the collection of both physical and medical evidence, fingerprinting of decedents using LIVE-SCAN technology and place-

ment of identification tags on the body. Bodies are maintained in refrigerated crypts while awaiting examination and release to mortuaries or for county cremation.

The Decedent Services Unit is responsible for crypt management of human remains prior to release for photography, x-ray and autopsy. Additionally, staff are responsible for the accountability of all human remains and specimens stored in the crypt areas. ■





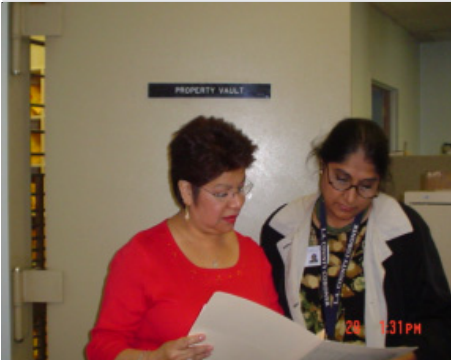
This division is responsible for Coroner case file management, revenue collection (document sales, decedent billing, etc.), and interaction with the public both telephonically and at the front lobby reception area. In addition to providing information and copies of autopsy reports, Public Ser-



vices staff offers many services to the public. These services include preparation of "Proof of Death" letters to verify that a death is being investigated by the Coroner and "Port of Entry" letters to confirm that a decedent had no communicable disease, necessary for the decedent's admission into a foreign country after death.

RECORDS SECTION

Records Section is responsible for Coroner Case file control, retention, document sales, and transportation billing. The Section handles over 2,500 telephone inquiries per month from the public and other agencies requesting information and Coroner reports. Revenue generated from documents, microscopic slides, photograph sales and transportation billing for a one year period totals over \$1,200,000.00. The Coroner is mandated by Government Code to retain all files permanently; consequently the Department maintains 100+ years of records which are accessed on a regular basis at the request of the public. Ap-





proximately 16,000 pages are copied from compact disc, optical disk and microfilm to fill requests received from the public each year.

DEATH CERTIFICATION & MEDICAL/CLERICAL SECTION

The Section is responsible for the completion and daily issuance of the death certificates to mortuaries and preparation of amendments stating the final cause of death. Medical/Clerical Section is responsible for reporting SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) cases to the state and local health agencies for follow up by those agencies. This section also provides secretarial and clerical support to the Deputy Medical Examiners.

MEDICAL TRANSCRIBING SECTION

This section is responsible for the transcription of the autopsy report protocols, microscopic slide reports, neuropathology reports, etc. An outside contract is utilized for routine transcription and an in-house staff of three full-time employees is employed to handle rush, high-priority and sensitive cases. In a one-year period over 2,000 cases are transcribed by request of the law enforcement agencies, the families, hospitals and other outside agencies.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECTION

Personal property of all decedents is brought to the Personal Property Section and safeguarded in a vault until release to the decedent's next-of-kin. The Department has three Personal Property Custodians who are responsible to receive and inventory the personal effects, contact the next-of-kin and arrange for delivery of the personal effects to the decedent's family. The Office of the Public Administrator is consulted when next-of-kin resides out of state or is unknown. The Custodians are also responsible for disposal of all unclaimed personal effects.

SUBPOENA CONTROL

Approximately 4,000 subpoenas are received and processed by the Public Services Division Subpoena Control Section in a one-year period. This unit is responsible for the scheduling of all Deputy Medical Examiners for court appearances, depositions and appointments with law enforcement, district attorney, public defender staff and members of the public. The revenue generated by civil witness fees and collected by this Section totals approximately \$55,000 per year.





Los Angeles County



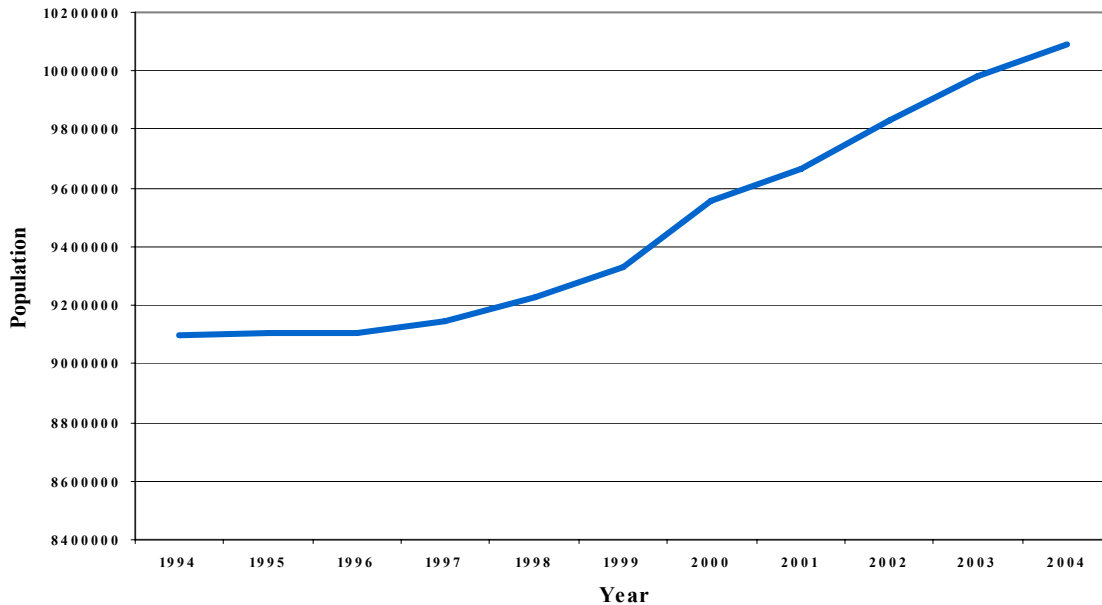
Death Statistics



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Population of Los Angeles County, 1994-2004



<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1994	9,095,200
1995	9,103,900
1996	9,104,700
1997	9,147,100
1998	9,225,800
1999	9,330,110
2000	9,559,600
2001	9,731,000
2002	9,889,300
2003	9,979,361
2004	10,088,934

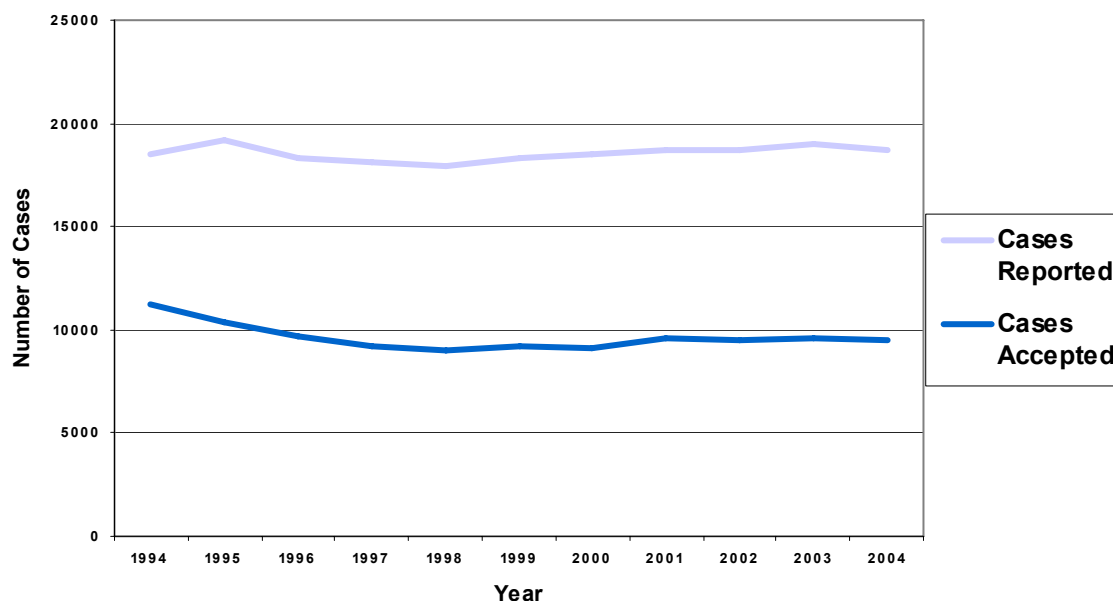
Sources:

State of California, Department of Finance. Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and State, 2001-2005. Sacramento CA, May 2005.

State of California, Department of Finance. Revised Historical City, County and State Population Estimates, 1991-2000, with 1990 and 2000 Census Counts. Sacramento CA, March 2002.



Number of Reported and Accepted Cases per Year, 1994-2004

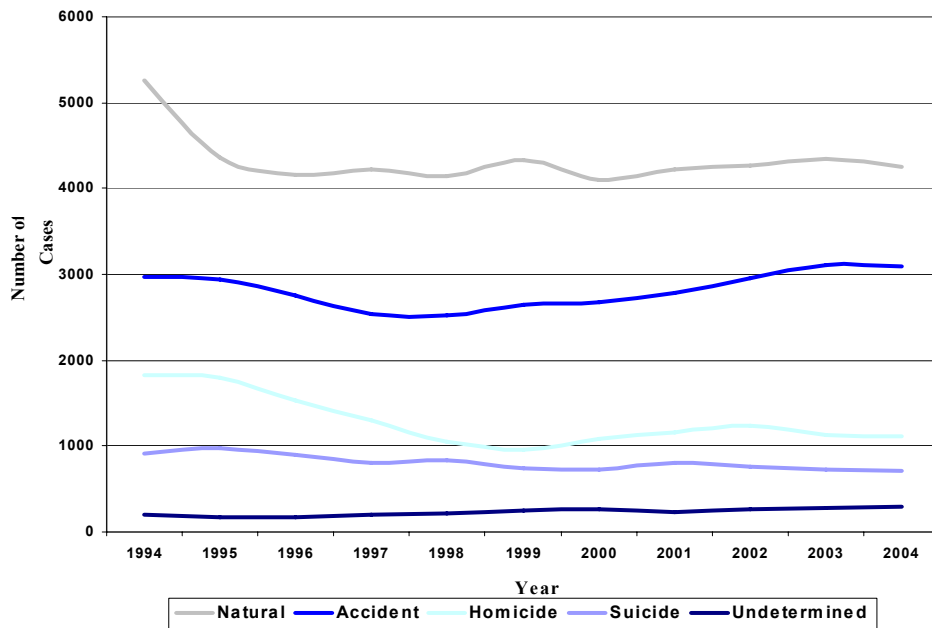


<u>Year</u>	<u>Cases Reported</u>	<u>Cases Accepted</u>
1994	18,550	11,213
1995	19,160	10,347
1996	18,295	9,656
1997	18,113	9,202
1998	17,924	8,981
1999	18,362	9,197
2000	18,512	9,156
2001	18,665	9,591
2002	18,665	9,470
2003	19,039	9,620
2004	18,659	9,465



Final Mode of Coroner's Cases

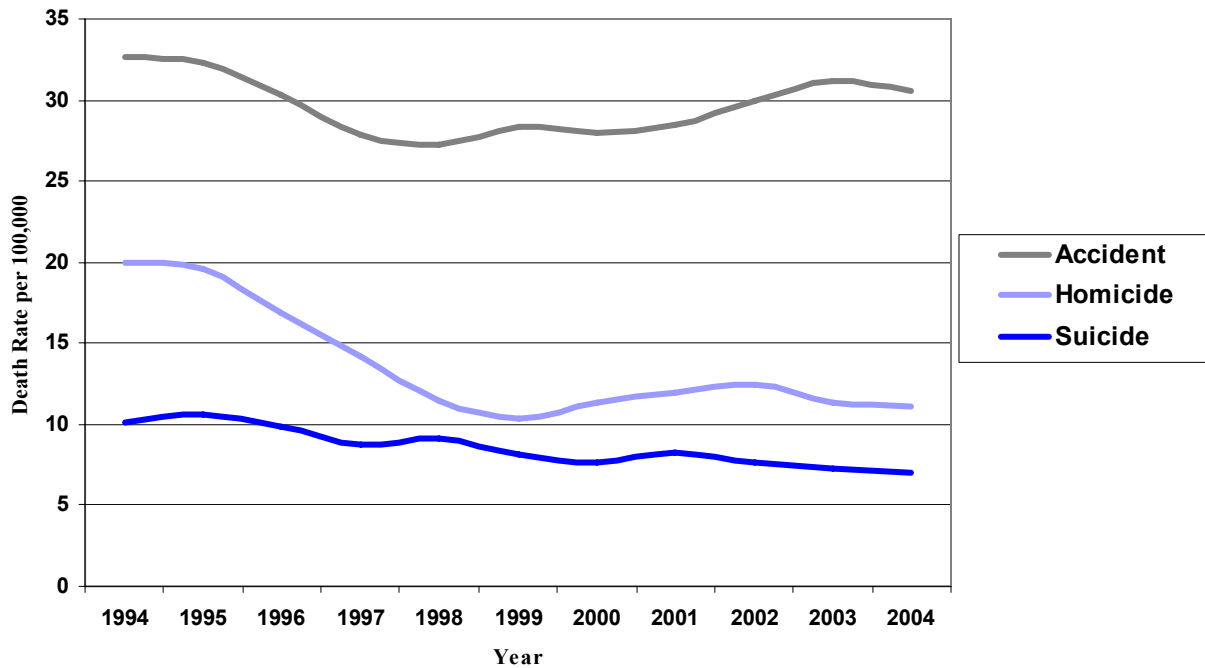
Final Mode of Coroner's Cases, 1994-2004



<u>Year</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>
1994	5,265	2,964	1,818	916	196
1995	4,365	2,942	1,788	968	177
1996	4,166	2,757	1,538	891	165
1997	4,226	2,542	1,301	798	201
1998	4,139	2,513	1,050	838	210
1999	4,331	2,641	960	744	247
2000	4,094	2,681	1,078	729	263
2001	4,224	2,777	1,159	807	226
2002	4,261	2,955	1,232	757	265
2003	4,344	3,110	1,127	732	279
2004	4,256	3,090	1,121	709	289



Death Rates per 100,000 Population, 1994-2004

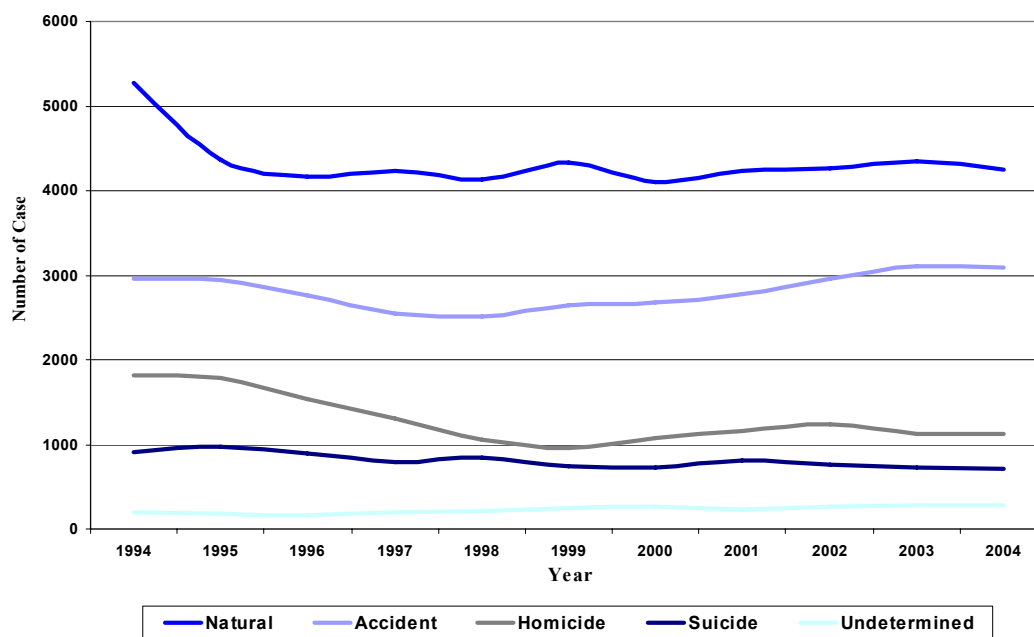


<u>Year</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Suicide</u>
1994	32.6	20.0	10.1
1995	32.3	19.6	10.6
1996	30.3	16.9	9.8
1997	27.8	14.2	8.7
1998	27.2	11.4	9.1
1999	28.3	10.3	8.0
2000	28.0	11.3	7.6
2001	28.5	11.9	8.3
2002	29.9	12.5	7.7
2003	31.2	11.3	7.3
2004	30.6	11.1	7.0



Modes for Child Death

Modes for Child Death (Ages Under 18), 1994-2004



<u>Year</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>
1994	257	246	261	31	34
1995	241	284	238	27	32
1996	193	221	193	39	29
1997	185	175	184	29	40
1998	172	153	154	19	34
1999	154	144	162	28	43
2000	150	136	149	24	52
2001	130	135	149	27	61
2002	114	119	152	19	70
2003	116	118	190	19	85
2004	115	177	180	24	106



Statistics Required by National Association of Medical Examiners, 2004

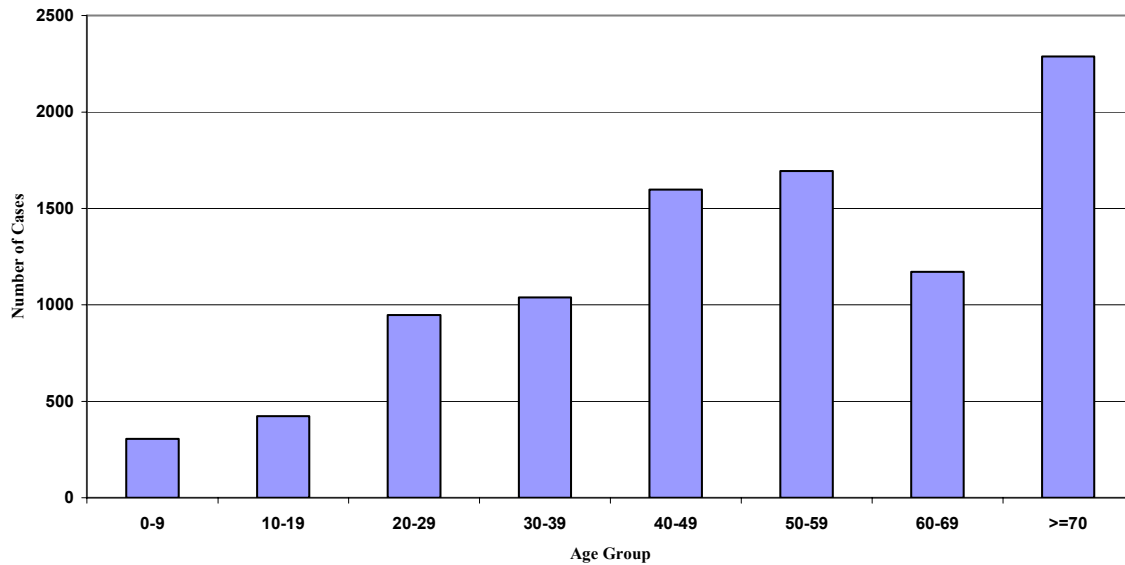
Number of deaths reported:	18,659
Number of cases accepted:	9,465
Number of cases by manner of death:	
Accident:	3,090
Homicide:	1,121
Natural:	4,256
Suicide:	709
Undetermined:	289
Scene visits:	3,283
Number of bodies transported:	7,196
External examinations:	
By physician:	2,366
By investigator:	2,319
Partial autopsies:	600
Complete autopsies:	4,180
Hospital autopsies under ME jurisdiction:	2
Cases where toxicology was performed:	5,484
Bodies unidentified after examination:	11
Organ and tissue donations:	
Total transplanted organs:	106
Total tissues donated:	406
Unclaimed bodies:	593
Exhumations:	1

*National Association of Medical Examiners



Number of Coroner's Cases by Age

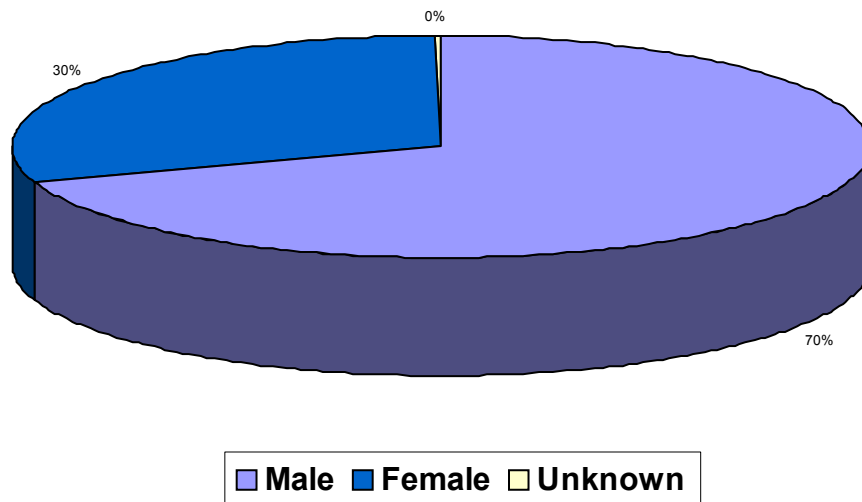
Number of Coroner's Cases by Age, 2004



<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
0-9	305
10-19	424
20-29	947
30-39	1,038
40-49	1,597
50-59	1,695
60-69	1,171
>=70	2,288
Total	9,465



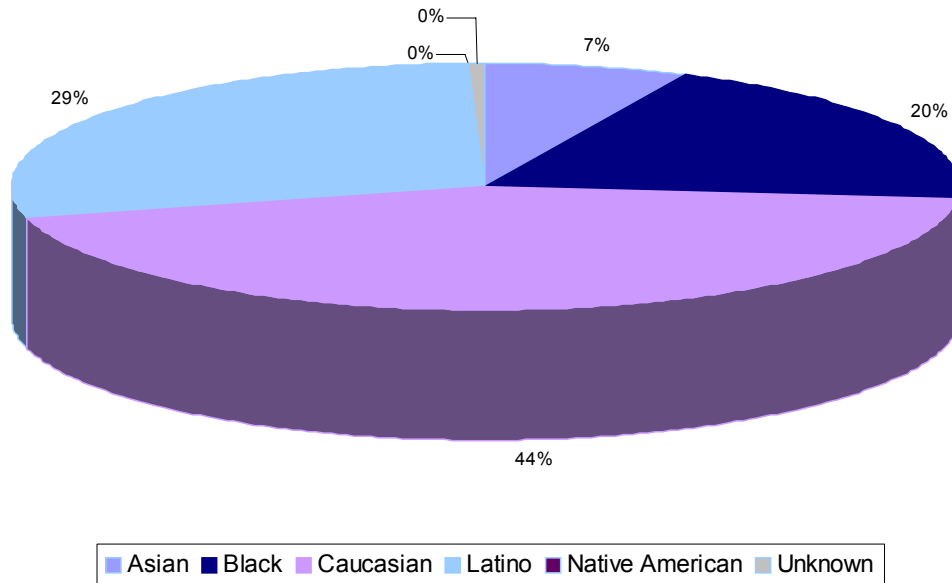
Coroner's Cases by Gender, 2004



<u>Gender</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Male	6,470
Female	2,970
Unknown	25
Total	9,465



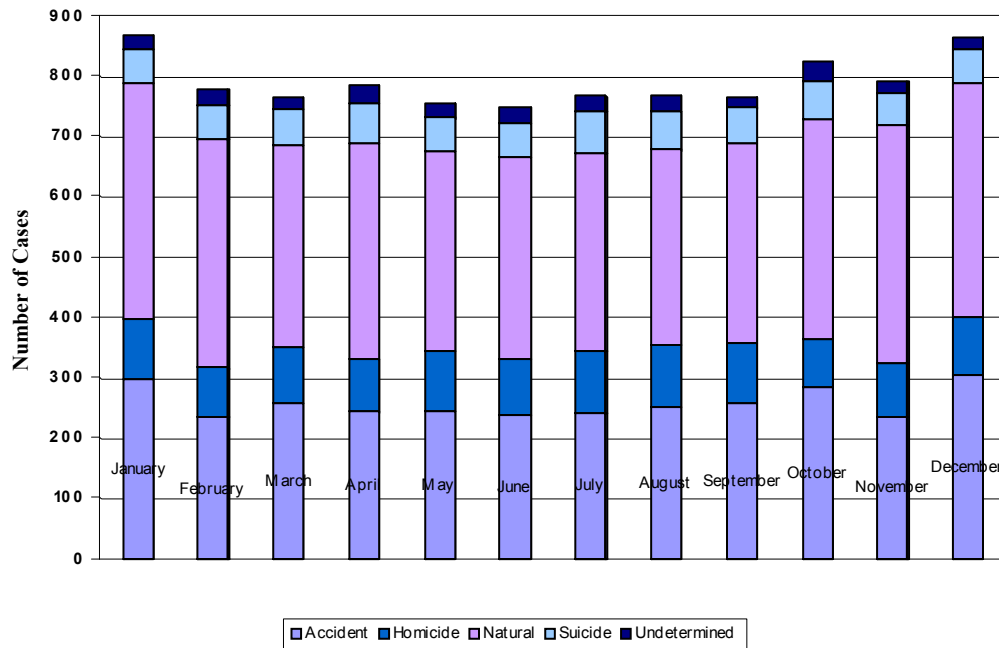
Coroner's Cases by Race, 2004



<u>Race</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Asian	654
Black	1,873
Caucasian	4,170
Latino	2,704
Native American	17
Unknown	47
Total	9,465



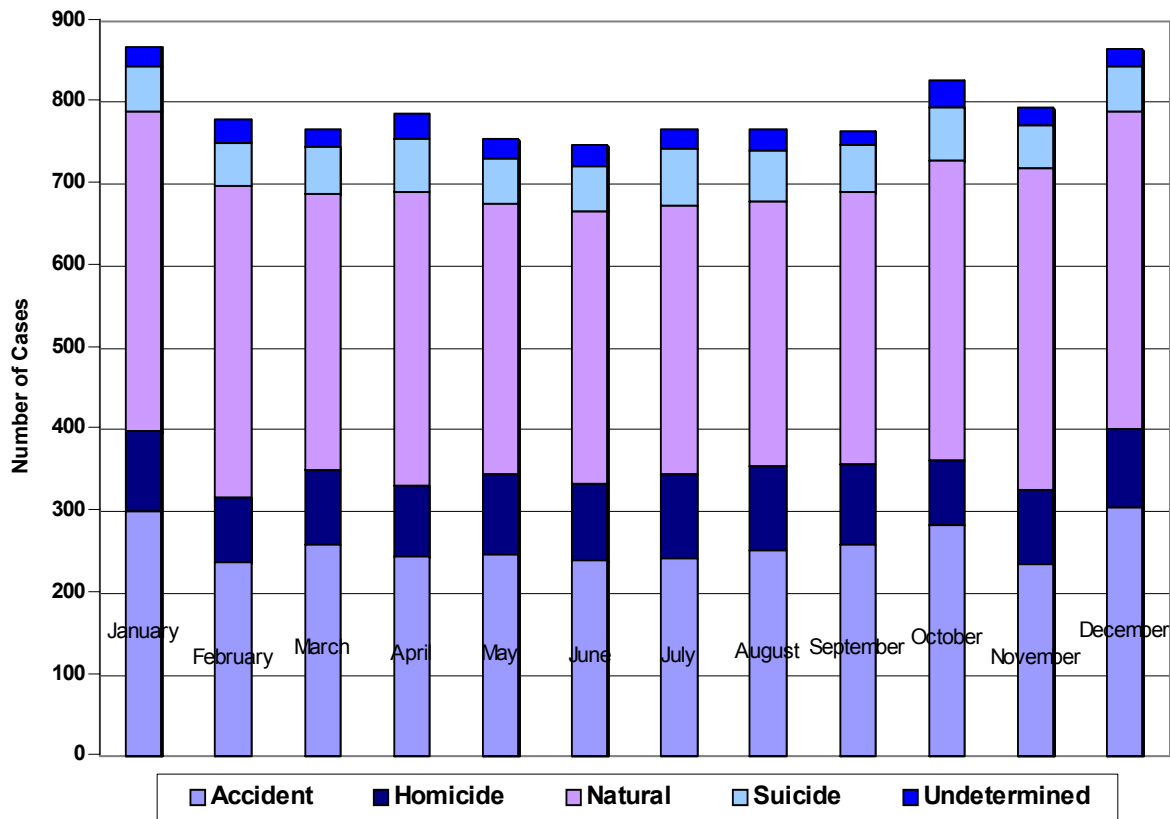
Mode of Death by Month, 2004



Month	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
January	299	97	392	55	23	866
February	236	80	380	54	27	777
March	258	92	336	59	20	765
April	243	87	359	65	30	784
May	245	99	330	56	23	753
June	238	94	333	56	25	746
July	241	103	328	70	24	766
August	252	103	322	63	26	766
September	258	99	331	58	17	763
October	283	79	365	65	33	825
November	234	91	393	53	20	791
December	303	97	387	55	21	863
Total	3,090	1,121	4,256	709	289	9,465



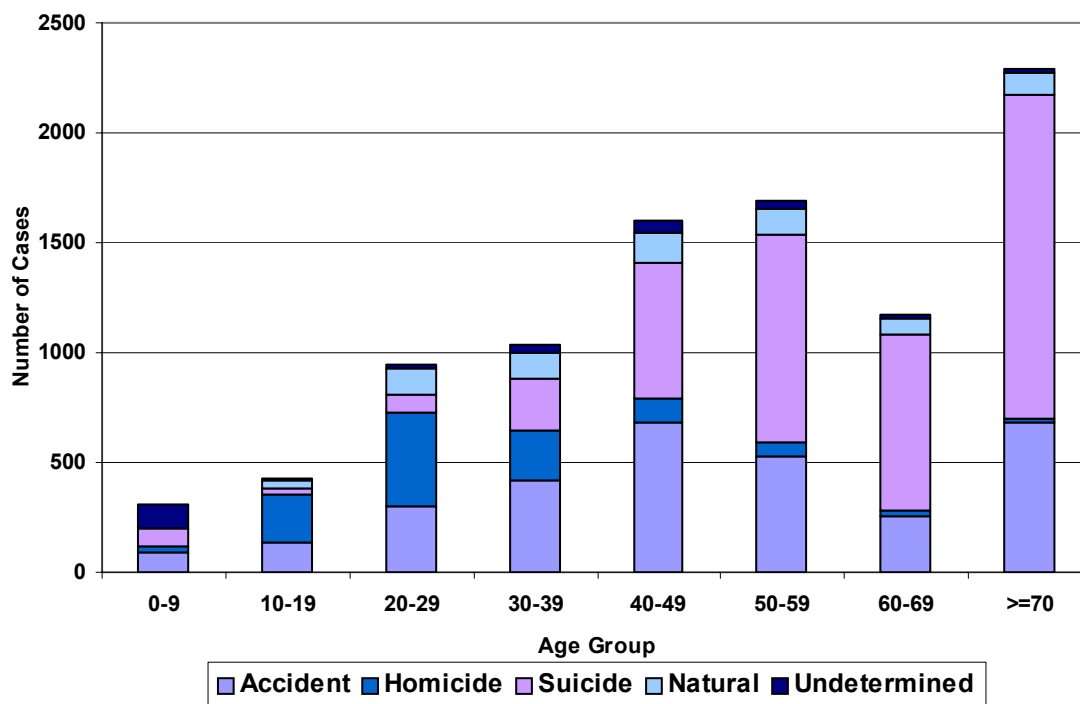
Racial Distribution for Each Mode, 2004



	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>	<u>Total</u>
Asian	201	42	307	85	19	654
Black	488	400	860	42	83	1,873
Caucasian	1,484	101	2,098	394	93	4,170
Latino	899	572	972	181	80	2,704
Native American	8	2	4	2	1	17
Unknown	10	4	15	5	13	47
Total	3,090	1,121	4,256	709	289	9,465



Mode Distribution for Each Age Group, 2004

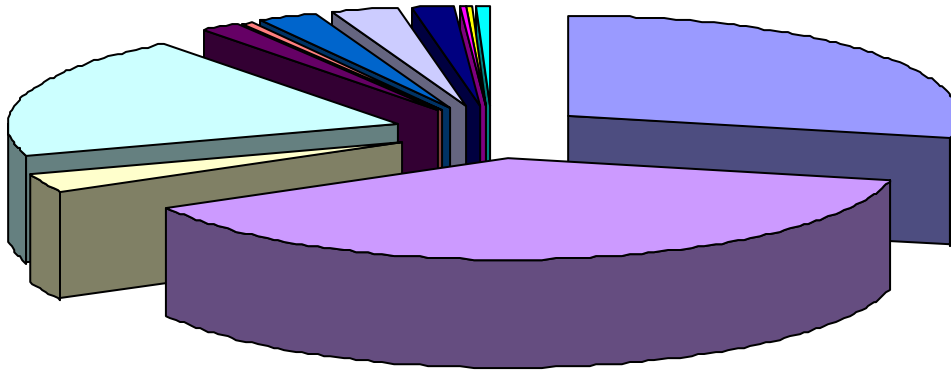


Age	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	>=70	Total
Accident	87	137	301	416	680	527	258	684	3,090
Homicide	31	214	425	231	112	66	23	19	1,121
Suicide	0	34	117	119	141	119	76	103	709
Natural	86	34	80	231	613	945	800	1,467	4,256
Undetermined	101	5	24	41	51	38	14	15	289
Total	305	424	947	1,038	1,597	1,695	1,171	2,288	9,465

Mode Distribution for Each Age Group



Accidental Deaths, 2004



Transport Accident	Drugs and Alcohol	Therapeutic Misadventure	Fall
Fire	Hyperthermia/hypothermia	Environmental Factors	Drowning
Choking and Suffocation	Firearms	Electrocution	Other

<u>Type of Accident</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Transport Accident	875
Drugs and Alcohol	1,191
Therapeutic Misadventure	95
Fall	610
Fire	55
Hyperthermia/hypothermia	15
Environmental Factors	81
Drowning	83
Choking and Suffocation	53
Firearms	4
Electrocution	11
Other	17
Total	3,090



Pedestrians

Collision with car, pick-up truck or van	201
Collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus	11
Collision with railway train or railway vehicle	9
Other and unspecified transport accidents	<u>3</u>
Total pedestrians	224

Pedal Cyclists

Collision with car, pick-up truck or van	24
Collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus	1
Collision with fixed or stationary objects	0
Fall from pedal cycle	2
Other and unspecified transport accidents	<u>2</u>
Total pedal cyclists	29

Motorcycle Riders

Collision with car, pick-up truck or van	69
Collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus	4
Collision with fixed or stationary object	18
Non-collision accident (fell or thrown)	18
Other and unspecified transport accidents	<u>1</u>
Total motorcycle riders	110

Car Occupants

Collision with car, pick-up truck or van	227
Collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus	11
Collision with railway train or railway vehicle	3
Collision with fixed or stationary object	148
Non-collision accident (fell or thrown)	50
Other and unspecified transport accidents	<u>7</u>
Total car occupants	446

Occupant of Pick-up Truck or Van

Collision with automobile	9
Collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus	1
Collision with fixed object	1
Non-collision accident (fell or thrown)	2
Other and unspecified transport accidents	<u>3</u>
Total pick-up truck and van occupants	15

Other Transport Accidents

Occupant of heavy transport vehicle	19
Fall from horse	4
Train derailment	0
Specialized industrial vehicle (forklift)	1
Off-road vehicle	4
Water craft	0
Aircraft	10
Other and unspecified transport accidents	<u>12</u>
Total other transport accidents	50

Total Transport Accidents

875

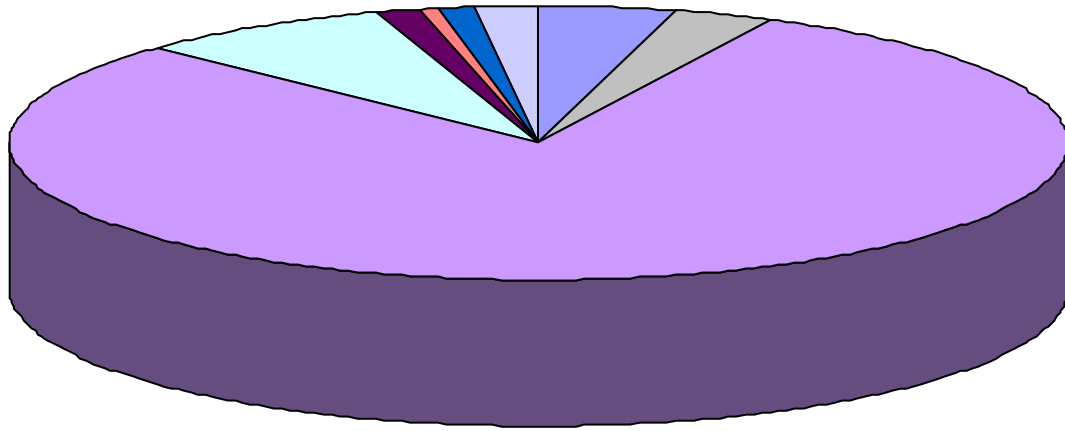


Accidental Falls, 2004

Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling	468
Fall involving wheelchair	6
Fall involving bed	13
Fall involving chair	8
Fall involving playground equipment	1
Fall on and from stairs and steps	48
Fall on and from ladder	10
Fall from scaffolding	1
Fall from, out of or through building or structure	31
Fall from tree	1
Diving into water causing injury other than drowning	2
Other fall from one level to another	17
Other fall on same level	<u>4</u>
Total falls	610



Homicidal Deaths, 2004

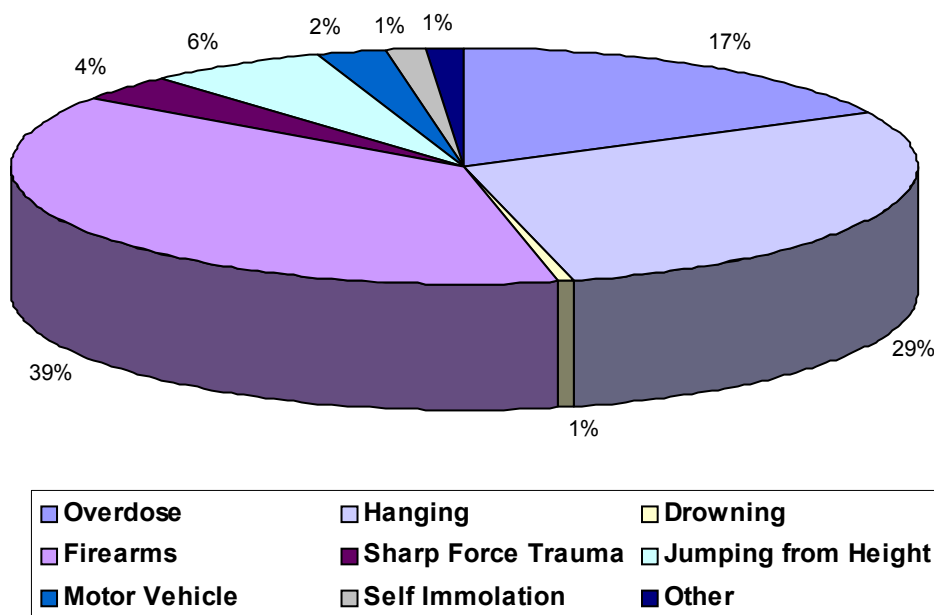


Blunt Trauma Strangulation/Suffocation Firearms
Child Abuse Arson Assault by Bodily Force

<u>Method of Homicide</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Blunt Trauma	48
Strangulation/Suffocation	34
Firearms	895
Sharp Force Trauma	88
Child Abuse	17
Arson	5
Assault by Bodily Force	13
Other	21
Total	1,121



Suicidal Deaths, 2004



Method of Suicide

Number of Cases

Overdose	124
Hanging	202
Drowning	4
Firearms	270
Sharp Force Trauma	27
Jumping from Height	45
Self Immolation	17
Motor Vehicle	10
Other	10

Total

709



Toxicology



Statistics



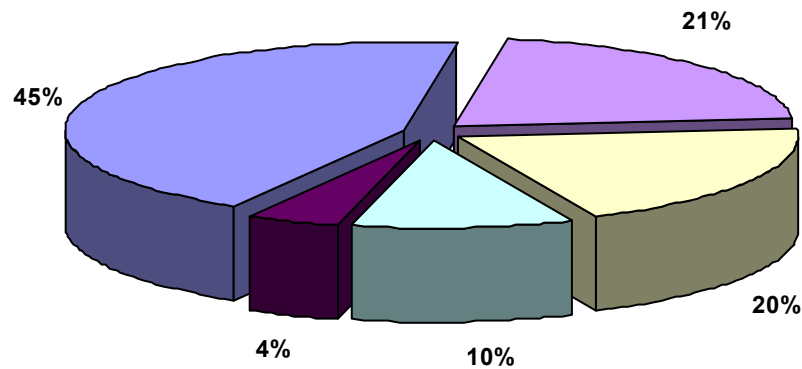
Index of Toxicology Statistics

Topic	Page
Cases with Drugs Detected by Mode	
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Cocaine Detected by Mode	
Methamphetamine Detected by Mode	42
Heroin Detected by Mode	
Phencyclidine Detected by Mode	43
Club Drug by Mode	
Prescription Drug Categories	44



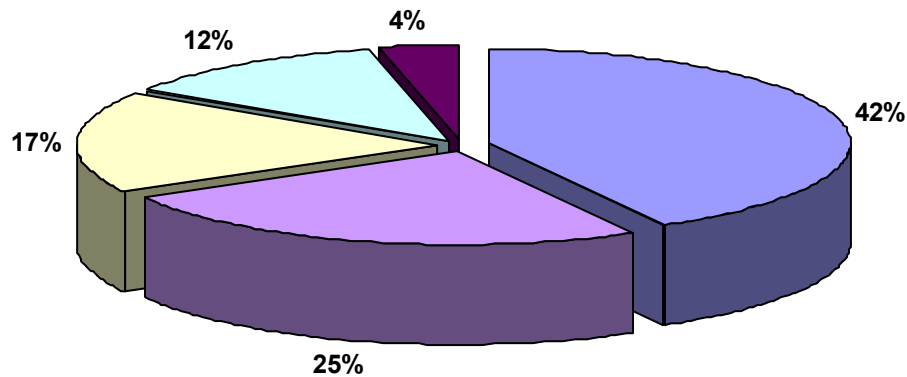
2004 Number of Cases with Drugs Detected by Mode Total Cases of 3,642

■ Accident - 1609 ■ Homicide - 772 ■ Natural - 716 ■ Suicide - 382 ■ Undertermined - 163



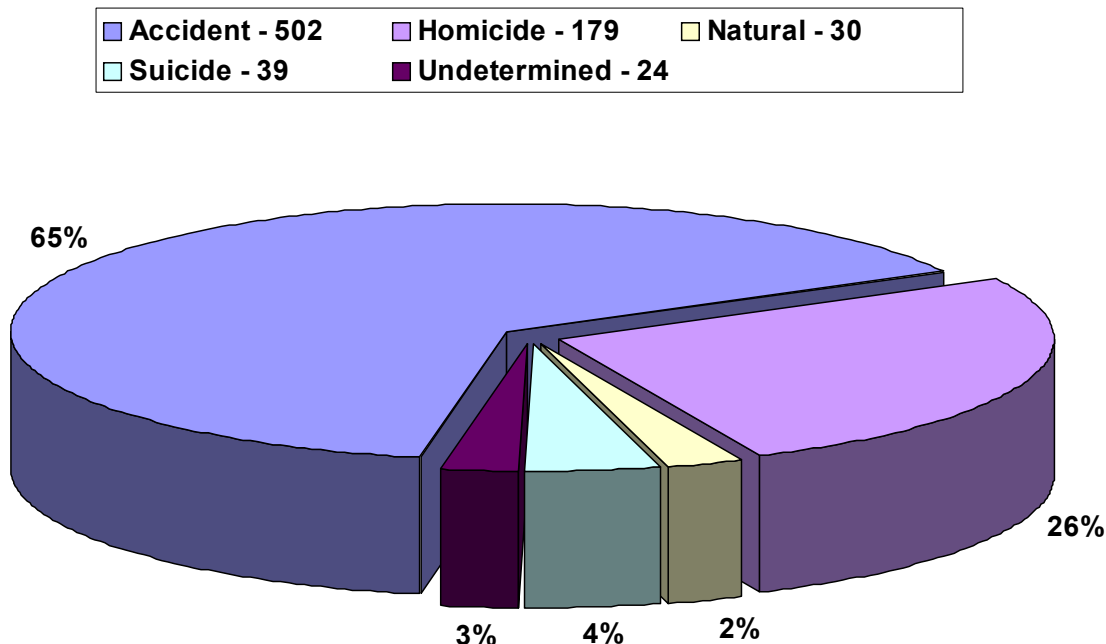
2004 Alcohol Detected by Mode Total Cases of 1,417

■ Accident - 593 ■ Homicide - 352 ■ Natural - 246 ■ Suicide - 174 ■ Undetermined - 52

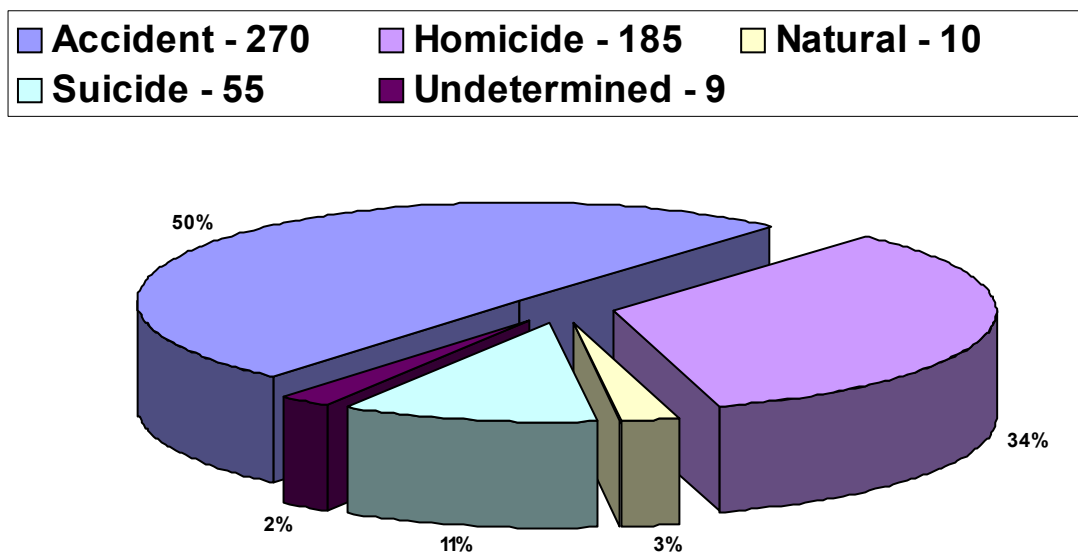




2004 Cocaine Detected by Mode Total Cases of 774



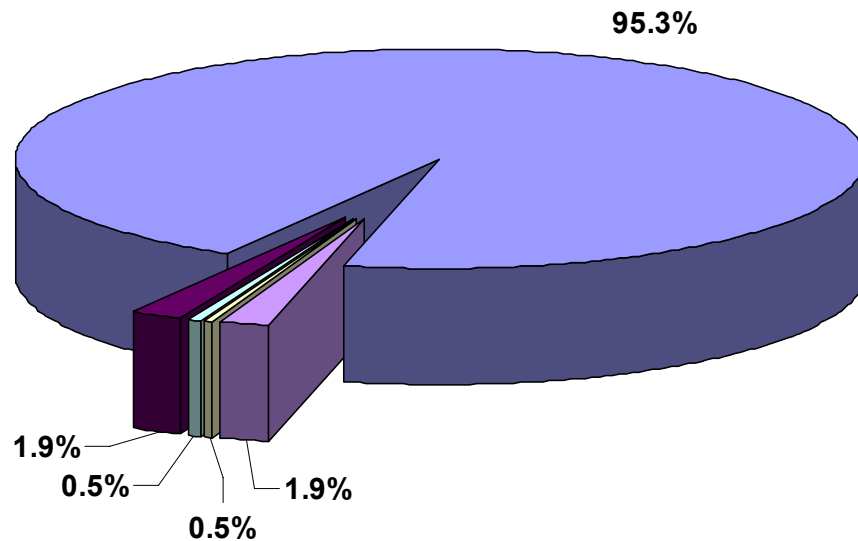
2004 Methamphetamine Detected by Mode Total Cases of 529





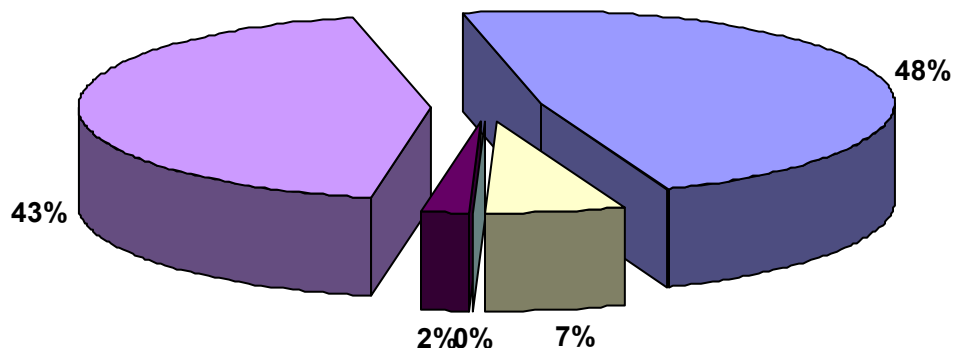
2004 Heroin Detected by Mode Total Cases of 282

Accident - 265	Homicide - 7	Natural - 2
Suicide - 5	Undetermined - 3	



2004 Phencyclidine Detected by Mode Total Cases of 46

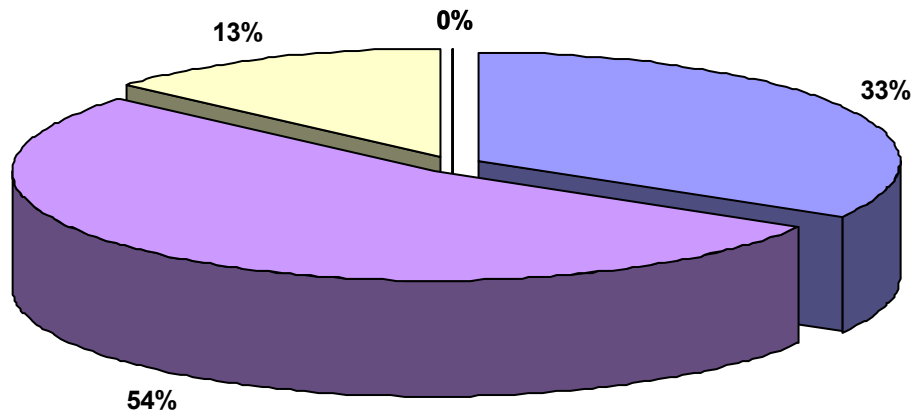
Accident - 20	Homicide - 22	Natural - 3
Suicide - 0	Undetermined - 1	





2004 Club Drug by Mode Total Cases of 15

Accident - 5	Homicide - 8	Natural - 2
Suicide - 0	Undetermined - 0	



2004 Prescription Drug Categories Total Cases of 2,350

Muscle Relaxants - 83	Sedative Hypnotics - 387
Antidepressants - 439	Antihistamines - 344
Antipsychotics - 143	Narcotic Analgesics - 954

